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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 31 March 1999 from His Excellency Mr. Zivadin Jovanović, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concerning the duty of the world Organization to stop the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against my country (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 31 March 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

I recall my letters to the Security Council of 1 February (S/1999/107, annex) and 17 March 1999 (S/1999/292, annex) warning against the threats of aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and asking that measures be undertaken, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in order to protect my country from impending aggression. I should also like to recall the letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations informing the Security Council of the aggression committed against my county and requesting an emergency action of the Council to condemn and stop it.

I have been deeply disappointed that, despite our appeal and the efforts of the representatives of peace-loving Member States, the Security Council has failed to act in accordance with its responsibilities as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

The brutal NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, an independent and sovereign country, a founding Member and a State Member of the United Nations, continues and is even being expanded. For the first time since the Second World War, an open act of aggression has been committed in Europe. At the same time, it is the first case that the mightiest military alliance is cooperating directly with a separatist-terrorist organization in an attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations. The NATO aggression has dealt the most dangerous blow so far to the system of collective security and the international legal system as a whole.

The NATO aggression, criminal air strikes against civilian targets across the entire Yugoslav territory, continues unabated without any reaction on your part. Aggressor bombs and bombs with delayed action throughout my country continue to sow death and cause people to suffer, to destroy their homes, economic and cultural facilities, religious sites, schools, hospitals, farms, national parks and infrastructure.

Causing casualties among civilians, filling hospitals with the wounded, expelling people from their peaceful homes - NATO bombs have become a cruel mechanism bringing about a humanitarian catastrophe. The States, i.e., the Governments committing the aggression, bear the responsibility for all the consequences, and the persons who took part in making and implementing these genocidal decisions - for crimes against peace and humanity.

I call upon you once again to urgently act within your powers, particularly those spelled out in Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to put an end to the NATO aggression and the further endangerment of international peace and security without delay. You are faced with a historic opportunity to take the side of justice and law and, at the threshold of a new

century, to protect the authority of the United Nations and to restore the trust of humanity in the world Organization. The alternative is that by failing to fulfil your obligations you will become an accomplice in undermining the system of the United Nations. I hope that it is still not too late for you to make the right choice and that you will muster the courage to stand for the rule of law rather than aggression and force.

(Signed) Zivadin JOVANOVIĆ